

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 968

By Maddox

A RESOLUTION to congratulate the Martin Middle School Cheerleaders on winning the 2003-2004 Large Junior High/ Middle School National Championship.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those successful school athletic teams that, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to the State of Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors of this State; and

WHEREAS, the Martin Middle School Cheerleading program is renowned as a bastion of extraordinary athletic facility and is a squad of competitive stature in the world of middle school sports; and

WHEREAS, the Martin Middle School (MMS) Cheerleaders achieved a notable level of success during the 2003 season; and

WHEREAS, competing in the oldest and largest cheerleading competition in the United States, the National Cheerleader Association (NCA) Championship, MMS prevailed over teams from larger schools to secure the national title by obtaining the highest possible score in the Large Junior High/Middle School division of this event, showcasing true athleticism and the spirit of constructive sportsmanship; and

WHEREAS, the MMS Cheerleaders were also recognized for having the best routine and received the Innovative Choreography Award; and

WHEREAS, this year the NCA Championship was host to over two hundred nine teams competing in twenty divisions; twenty-three states and two countries were represented, making the success of the MMS Cheerleaders even more laudable; and

WHEREAS, in order to qualify for the National Competition, MMS had to receive a bid during an NCA camp in June of 2003; through their efforts at NCA Camp, the MMS Squad was

honored by not only receiving such a bid, but also by winning the Top Team Award, the Spirit Award, and the Spirit Stick Award; and

WHEREAS, the MMS squad includes twenty-three girls, all of whom are currently in the sixth, seventh, or eighth grade; and

WHEREAS, through the dedication and hard work of sixth graders Melinda Dortch, Kristen Riley, Julie Reddick, Molly Willis, Kassi Wright, and Megan Burcham; seventh graders Kathryn Flippin, Briana Rooks, Laura Gullett, Ashleigh Shell, Jenny Walker, Jennifer Gilbertson, Casey Hazlewood, and Rachel Johnson; and eighth graders Bethany Walters, Lauren Witherspoon, Hollie Tyson, Haley Grissom, LaStacia Evans, Caitlin Simpson, Kriston Randles, Ashley Holland, and Shannell Atkins, the MMS Cheerleading Squad has achieved meritorious success throughout the past year; and

WHEREAS, Shanell Atkins, Megan Burcham, Laura Gullett, Casey Hazlewood, Kriston Randles, Ashleigh Shell, and Caitlin Simpson were all selected to be part of the NCA All-American Team; and

WHEREAS, Head Coach Fran Spears and Assistant Coaches Jill Barber and Ginger Cole laid the groundwork for the National Championship by sharing with the young women on the squad their substantial knowledge of cheerleading and passion both for the sport of cheerleading and for excellence in every endeavor; and

WHEREAS, participating in numerous competitions, the Cheerleaders of MMS were awarded third place in the Southeast Classic in Memphis, second place in the TSSAA State Championship in Murfreesboro, first place in Kentucky Cheer and Dance Competition in Murray, Kentucky and they also received a trophy for Best Tumbling; and

WHEREAS, the Cheerleaders of MMS for the 2003-2004 season have proven themselves exceptional artists and athletes, and have followed in the winning footsteps of previous MMS Cheerleaders; in the past six years, the members of the MMS Cheerleading program have received three National Titles and placed second in the other three National Competitions; and

WHEREAS, the Cheerleaders at Martin Middle School epitomize all that is good in today's student-athlete, as they have achieved a premier level of success in competition while showing the highest degree of character in every facet of their daily lives; and

WHEREAS, the perseverance, determination, work ethic, and talent of this group of young women not only made possible a championship cheerleading season, but also surely bode well for their success in every future enterprise; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud the Martin Middle School Cheerleaders for winning the National Cheerleader Association Large Junior High/Middle School National Championship and for serving as examples of the exceptional quality of the youth of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we do hereby honor and congratulate Coaches Fran Spears, Jill Barber, Ginger Cole, and the Martin Middle School Cheerleaders on their individual and collective resolve and their extraordinary victorious performance at the 2003-2004 National Cheerleading Association Championship competition.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.